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PATENT APPLICATION  
Attorney Docket No. Q61622

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Vojin JEREMIJEVIC

PCT/FR99/01083

-filed May 7, 1999

Filed: November 2, 2000

For: DEVICE FOR PROTECTING AND NEUTRALIZING A NEEDLE FOR MEDICAL USE

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**Please cancel claims 4-14 without prejudice or disclaimer.**

Please amend claims 1-3 and 15-25 as follows:

~~1. (Amended) A device for protecting [and neutralizing] a needle [(1, 201)] for medical use or the like, the needle having a sharp end [(2, 202)] and a base end [(3, 203), the device being characterized by the fact that it comprises], and able to take at least three positions, respectively a “starting position”, a “in-use position” and a “locked position”, comprising:~~

~~a sleeve [(10, 204)] having a through bore [(11, 205)] defined on a given axis [(12, 208)], said through bore being of a section that is not less than that of the needle to be protected;~~

~~[at least one] a first link [(13, 113, 14, 114)] having first and second ends [(15, 115, 16, 116, 17, 117, 18, 118)], said link being of a length “ $L_1$ ” defined between said two ends;~~

~~first resilient return hinge means [(19, 20)] for connecting the first end [(15, 16)] of the first link to the sleeve [(10)], said first hinge means being organized so that said first link takes~~